



THE URBAN DISTRICT OF PENRITH



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# ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the year 1943

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Penrith :

REED'S LTD., Printers, &c., 46 King Street.

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1944.



TOWN HALL,  
PENRITH,

29th February, 1944.

*To the Chairman and Councillors of the  
Urban District Council of Penrith.*

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Johnson and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report upon the health of the town for the year 1943.

This report has been prepared in a curtailed form similar to previous reports since 1939, in accordance with instructions issued by the Ministry of Health.

The year 1943 was a quiet year with no epidemics to note, and contrasted sharply with the years 1941 and 1942 when there were epidemics of Trichinosis and Sonne Dysentery respectively.

The Vital Statistics have been compiled entirely from local sources ; the most interesting feature is the record low infantile mortality rate at 9.85 per 1,000 live births.

The death rate at 10.18 was very low and was accompanied by a high birth rate at 18.79 per 1,000 of the population.

Diphtheria immunisation made still further progress during 1943, and it was estimated that 94% of the school children and 55% of the pre-school children had completed a course of immunisation by 31st December, 1943.

The water supply to the town was very satisfactory both as regards sufficiency and purity, and notes on the water supply are to be found in Mr. J. W. Butler's section of this report.

In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks for the courtesy and help extended to me by the Chairman of the Council, who is also Chairman of the Sanitary Committee, to the Chairman of the Housing Committee, and to Mr. C. H. Huntley, Clerk of the Council, and to Mr. J. W. Butler, the Sanitary Inspector.

I have the honour to be,  
Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Johnson and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,  
F. W. GAVIN,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

## COMPILED FROM LOCAL SOURCES.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Live Births—Legitimate .....	99	88	187
Illegitimate .....	8	8	16
			—
			203
Birth Rate per 1,000 of population .....			18.79
Still Births—Legitimate .....	2	—	2
Illegitimate .....	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .....			0.18
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths .....	43	67	110
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population .....			10.18
Deaths from Puerperal causes .....			1
Maternal Mortality Rate .....			4.87
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year :—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births .....			9.85
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live births .....			9.85
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 live births .....			Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....			17
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....			Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .....			Nil
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) .....			Nil

### INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1943.

Only 2 deaths occurred in 1943 :—

- (1). Female died 1 day old from Atelectasis Pulmonum.
- (2). Female died 3 days old from Asphyxia.

This is the lowest death rate recorded that I can find in the records—the lowest rate previously recorded was 13.51 in 1928.

### INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Year.	Rate per 1,000 live births.				
1913	.....	.....	.....	.....	98.95
1914	.....	.....	.....	.....	100.00
1915	.....	.....	.....	.....	147.72
1916	.....	.....	.....	.....	74.28
1917	.....	.....	.....	.....	69.76
1928	.....	.....	.....	.....	13.51
1929	.....	.....	.....	.....	61.40
1930	.....	.....	.....	.....	58.44
1931	.....	.....	.....	.....	58.00
1932	.....	.....	.....	.....	57.40
1933	.....	.....	.....	.....	49.68
1934	.....	.....	.....	.....	74.32
1935	.....	.....	.....	.....	47.05
1936	.....	.....	.....	.....	60.60
1937	.....	.....	.....	.....	57.69
1938	.....	.....	.....	.....	38.88
1939	.....	.....	.....	.....	46.78
1940	.....	.....	.....	.....	72.62
1941	.....	.....	.....	.....	25.31
1942	.....	.....	.....	.....	62.14
1943	.....	.....	.....	.....	9.85

} War Years.

} War Years.

It will be observed that the average infantile mortality rate between the years 1928-1943 inclusive was 49.60.



## CUMBERLAND PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

CUMBERLAND INFIRMARY,

CARLISLE,

4t.

**EXAMINATION OF WATER.**

Time and place sample taken—Portland Place, Penrith—1/5/44.

## BACTERIOLOGY.

Agar plate count	0.1 ml. colonies	1 ml. colonies	10 ml. colonies
At 22. C	3	27	291
At 37. C	nil	2	17
Probable number of coli-aerogenes present in 100 ml.—absent.			

## CHEMISTRY.

Appearance in a 2 ft. tube—clear and colourless.

p.H. 7.0.

	Parts per 100,000
Free and Saline Ammonia .. .. .	0.0004
Albuminoid Ammonia .. .. .	0.0034
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 15 mins. at 27. C.	0.002
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hrs. at 27. C.	0.004
Total Solids .. .. .	3.7
Suspended matter .. .. .	0.0
Total hardness .. .. .	1.7
Permanent hardness .. .. .	1.7
Temporary hardness .. .. .	0.0
Chlorine present as Chlorides .. .. .	0.45
Heavy metals .. .. .	0.0

Opinion :—A pure and wholesome water.

**INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.****Milk Supply :—**

## ANALYSIS OF MILK SAMPLES TAKEN DURING 1943.

Grade of Milk.	Entirely Satisfactory.	Entirely Unsatisfactory.	Methylene Blue Test Satisfactory.	B. Coli Test Satisfactory.
T.T. ....	14	1	—	2
Accredited ....	10	1	3	5
Ungraded ....	7	3	2	10
	—	—	—	—
Totals ....	31	5	5	17
	—	—	—	—

Total Number of Samples taken—58.

**Milk in Schools :—**

Tuberculin Tested (Certified) Milk is supplied to all the Elementary Schools in the town, and also to the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, under the "Milk in Schools Scheme" of the Milk Marketing Board.

## Meat and Other Foods :—

## CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle.	Cows.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Calves.
Number killed .. ..	1,422	672	14,850	263	527
Number inspected .. ..	1,422	672	14,810	263	527
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis—</i>					
Whole Carcasses condemned ..	23	39	103	9	28
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned..	527	335	467	13	25
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than T.B. .. ..	38.67%	55.65%	3.84%	8.36%	10.05%
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i>					
Whole Carcasses condemned..	23	53	—	4	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned..	67	123	—	12	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis .. ..	6.32%	2.61%	Nil	6.08%	1.13%

The following additional items were condemned by the Veterinary Officer during the year :—

- 22 lbs. shoulder of beef—abscess.
- 198 lbs. corned beef on account of decomposition.
- 2 forequarters imported frozen meat (bone taint).
- 1 beef head and tongue—actinomycosis.
- 36 lbs. corned mutton on account of decomposition.
- 40 lbs. beef stifle on account of arthritis.
- 2 flanks of mutton on account of dropsy.
- 1 brisket mutton on account of dropsy.
- 6 lbs. chopped ham on account of decomposition.
- 11 lbs. dinner roll on account of decomposition.
- 2½ lbs. sausage luncheon on account of mould.
- 1½ lbs. pork sausage on account of decomposition.
- 1 lb. grade 3 salmon on account of decomposition.
- 22½ lbs. cheese on account of mould.
- 11 lbs. beans on account of decomposition.
- 3 lbs. condensed milk—blown tin.
- 3 lbs. semolina pudding—contaminated by mite.
- 11 lbs. jam on account of decomposition.

## CARCASSES EXAMINED BY THE VETERINARY SURGEON.

## PENRITH MUNICIPAL SLAUGHTERHOUSE.

	Cattle.	Cows.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.	Calves.
January ....	93	49	902	62	75
February ....	80	43	795	33	62
March ....	91	34	1,035	25	13
April ....	105	34	1,300	11	45
May ....	162	44	1,059	15	72
June ....	90	55	681	13	48
July ....	75	60	627	15	29
August ....	168	79	1,123	15	48
September ....	153	59	1,538	20	77
October ....	162	57	1,590	14	24
November ....	174	82	2,032	27	11
December....	69	76	2,128	13	23
Yearly Total....	1,422	672	14,810	263	527

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASES.**Scarlet Fever.**

Nineteen cases were notified in 1943, 13 cases were school-children, and there was no school epidemic during the year.

Two cases were pre-school children and there were four adult cases.

Nineteen cases were isolated at Fairhill Hospital, and the usual disinfection was carried out.

**Diphtheria.**

Two cases were notified during 1943. The first case, aged 10 years, was a boy attending St. Catherine's R.C. School, and had throat swabs positive both for diphtheria and Vincent's angina. This case was very mild and made a rapid recovery.

Unfortunately the second case, who also attended St. Catherine's School, aged 9 years, was a very severe diphtheria and developed multiple paresis and paralysis, and died on the 39th day of illness.

Both cases notified in 1943 had *not* been immunised.

**Immunisation against Diphtheria.**

Diphtheria immunisation made further progress during the year, and once again emphasis was laid on the pre-school group of children aged 1 year and under 5 years. Immunisation amongst



school children, which was commenced in the autumn of the year 1936, has been steadily maintained since, with the co-operation of the County Medical Officer. The County Clinic, Southend Road, Penrith, is used for carrying out the immunisations, and also the services of the County Health Visitors are made available for this purpose.

In connection with pre-school children the County Medical Officer has instructed Health Visitors and District Nurses to use every available opportunity for obtaining parental consent for the immunisation of every child over the age of 12 months who has not already been immunised.

The aim is to achieve the immunisation of at least 75% of the children in this group, and it must be remembered that the percentage is calculated on the total number of children aged 0—5 years for the Ministry of Health half-yearly return, but as children are not immunised until they have attained the age of 12 months the percentage return is always lower than the actual percent immunised.

A total of 236 school children and 302 pre-school children completed a course of 2 injections with A.P.T. during the year, and at 31st December, 1943, it was estimated that 94% school children and 55% pre-school children had completed a course of immunisation.

The diphtheria notifications during the past ten years are as follows :—

Year.	Diphtheria Cases.					Deaths.
1934	.....	.....	23	.....	.....	Nil
1935	.....	.....	32	.....	.....	2
1936	.....	.....	23	.....	.....	1
1937	.....	.....	19	.....	.....	Nil
1938	.....	.....	19	.....	.....	Nil
1939	.....	.....	10	.....	.....	Nil
1940	.....	.....	4	.....	.....	Nil
1941	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	Nil
1942	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	Nil
1943	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	1

### **Puerperal Pyrexia.**

Eight cases were notified during the year, compared with only one in 1942, and there was one death of a resident within the urban area.

No less than six of the cases occurred in the month of February, and the fatal case died at Crozier Lodge, Carlisle.

This disease is immediately notified to the County Medical Officer who is responsible for treatment, etc.

### **Pneumonia.**

14 cases of primary or influenzal pneumonia were recorded in 1943 with 1 death, as against 18 cases in 1942 with 2 deaths.

The winter of 1942-43 was very mild and probably accounts for the reduction in the incidence of this disease.

### **Bacillary Dysentery Sonne.**

Three cases occurred in one household during the month of March when a fourth case occurred, and a fifth case was notified in August.

These cases may be regarded as an aftermath from the epidemic of this disease, which was reported in my Annual Report for 1942. The source of infection in the three households concerned could not be found, but it is probable that healthy carriers were responsible for infection. It must be remembered that carriers are often intermittent excretors of infectious organisms, and in this connection the importance of food handlers and the hygienic handling of foodstuffs is recalled.

Everyone concerned in food production must observe cleanly habits, and particularly the washing of hands after visiting a toilet.

### **Measles.**

This disease was endemic during most of the year within the urban area, but only 43 cases were notified as compared with 285 in 1942.

There were no deaths and no cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital.

### **Whooping Cough.**

Forty-seven cases were notified, all between February and September, 1943, as against 33 in 1942. Twenty-nine cases were of pre-school age and 18 were school children.

There were no deaths from this cause and no cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital.

1943—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (except Tuberculosis).

Diseases.	AGES.											TOTAL.	Admitted to Isolat'n Hosp	Deaths.
	-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-		
Smallpox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever .. ..	..	..	1	..	2	7	5	..	2	1	1	..	19	..
Diphtheria .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
Paratyphoid B. .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bacillary Dysentery Sonne .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	2	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1	..	..	8	1
Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia ..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	5	..	14	1
Erysipelas .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	3	..
Cerebro-spinal Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
Measles .. ..	6	3	3	4	6	11	5	3	..	2	..	..	43	..
Whooping Cough .. ..	7	2	5	5	10	15	3	..	..	..	..	..	47	..
											Totals		142	21
													3	

**CANCER.**

Seventeen deaths were caused by malignant disease, giving a death rate of 1.57 per 1,000 of the population ; in 1942 there were 21 deaths and a rate of 1.96 per 1,000.

The details are as follows :—

System.	Males.	Females.
Alimentary—		
Stomach .....	—	3
Colon .....	3	3
Liver .....	1	1
Rectum .....	1	1
Bucco-pharyngeal.....	2	—
Skin .....	1	1

1	of the deaths occurred among persons aged between 25 and 30
2	„ „ „ „ „ „ 50 and 60
2	„ „ „ „ „ „ 60 and 65
3	„ „ „ „ „ „ 65 and 70
6	„ „ „ „ „ „ 70 and 75
3	„ „ „ „ „ over 75 years

Total number of deaths—17.

82.35% of the deaths were over 60 years of age. 65.82 years was the average age at death.

**TUBERCULOSIS.**

No action has been necessary in respect of Tuberculosis among persons employed in the Milk Trade or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

The total number of cases on the register at 31st December, 1943, is 51, compared with 48 at the end of 1942.

There were three deaths from Tuberculosis, two being pulmonary, one notified in 1942 and the second was an ex-serviceman discharged from the Royal Navy in 1941 suffering from the disease.

The third death was due to Tuberculous Meningitis in a child (female) aged 2 years.

The details of cases on the register are as follows :—

Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary
16	7	18	10
Total—51,			



## TUBERCULOSIS CASES, 1943.

AGES.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respir-		Respiratory		Non-Respir-	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
To One year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
5 to 15 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 25 „ ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 35 „ ...	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
35 to 45 „ ...	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
45 to 55 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55 to 65 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	2	3	1	1	1	1	—	1

Summary of Causes of Deaths abstracted from Local Returns in 1943.

Causes.	Under 15														Over 15									
	1-1	2-2	3-3	4-4	5-5	10-10	15-15	20-20	25-25	30-30	35-35	40-40	45-45	50-50	55-55	60-60	65-65	70-70	75-75	Totals.				
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1			
Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1			
T.B. Lungs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2			
Other T.B.	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1			
Cancer	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	3	6	3	17	17			
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2			
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	3	6	4	7	22	22			
Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	2	4	..	4	17	32	32			
Other Circulatory Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	3	3			
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	5	6	6			
Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	2	2			
Peptic Ulcer	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	2			
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	1	4	4			
Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1			
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformation, etc.	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2			
Senility	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	4	4			
Suicide	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	3	3			
Other Violence	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3			
Other Defined Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	2			
Totals	..	2	..	2	..	2	..	1	3	..	2	4	3	4	5	13	11	16	42	110	110			

## PENRITH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT,  
TOWN HALL,  
PENRITH,  
29th February, 1944.

*To the Chairman and Councillors of the  
Urban District Council of Penrith.*

Mrs. Johnson and Gentlemen,

I desire to submit my third Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1943 :—

### **Inspection of District.**

During the year 240 inspections and re-inspections were made. It was necessary in numerous instances, however, to interview and write to the persons concerned, drawing their attention to repairs which had not received prompt attention.

Eight letters referring to nuisances and general dilapidations were sent out ; six have received attention, the remaining two are receiving attention.

### **Bakehouses.**

Number on Register .....	16
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The premises are all in a satisfactory condition and are well conducted.

### **Food Premises.**

All premises for the preparation and sale of food including meat, fish, fruit, etc., have been inspected and found satisfactory.

### **Abattoir.**

The premises have been kept under supervision and found satisfactory.

### **Disinfection.**

After all cases of infectious disease, an inspection of the premises affected has been made and the premises, bedding, etc., have been disinfected.

Houses disinfected during 1943 .....	30
Schools disinfected during 1943 .....	Nil

**Camping Sites.**

Number of Camping Sites in the District	.....	.....	1
Maximum number of campers	.....	.....	5

**Foodstuffs Condemned.**

The following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit and, having been surrendered, were destroyed or so disposed of as not to be used for human food :—

Tinned Meat	.....	.....	.....	.....	258 tins
Tinned Vegetables	.....	.....	.....	.....	90 tins
Tinned Fruit	.....	.....	.....	.....	47 tins
Evaporated Milk	.....	.....	.....	.....	160 tins
Tinned Fish	.....	.....	.....	.....	111 tins
Ham	.....	.....	.....	.....	114 lbs.
Bacon	.....	.....	.....	.....	785 lbs.
Fresh Fish	.....	.....	.....	.....	121 lbs.
Preserves	.....	.....	.....	.....	74 lbs.
Flour	.....	.....	.....	.....	496 lbs.

**Water Supply.**

The water supply to Penrith is obtained from Lake Hayeswater and is conveyed 19 miles through an 8 inch main which supplies four storage reservoirs situated at Carleton, Beacon Road, Fairhill and Maidenhill, the total capacity being 1,525,000 gallons. The water is excellent in quality and tests are frequently made, the last being on 3rd March, 1944, which the Analyst gave as a pure and wholesome water.

Special attention is given to the inspection of reservoirs and the testing of mains.

**Smoke Abatement.**

No statutory action has been taken in connection with smoke nuisance during 1943.

**Schools.**

All the schools have been visited and inspected. Sanitary conditions were found to be satisfactory.

**Housing.**

Number of Houses erected in 1943 :—

By Local Authority	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
By Other Persons	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil



### Milk Supply.

Number of Cowkeepers, Dairymen and Wholesale Purveyors of Milk on Register .....	26
Number of Farms used as Dairies .....	26
Number of Other Premises used as Dairies .....	9
Number of Retail Purveyors of Milk .....	11

The following samples were taken and submitted to the Pathological Laboratory at Carlisle during the year 1943 :—

Certified Standard T.T. ....	17
Accredited .....	19
Ungraded .....	22

The total number of samples taken was 58, of which 31 were entirely satisfactory.

### Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The use of sanitary dustbins is universal throughout the area. House collection of refuse is carried out weekly by the Council's staff. The refuse is dealt with by controlled tipping at the Refuse Tip at Red Hills.

### Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

Refuse tips and sewers under the Council's control have been periodically dosed with suitable poison, while in addition advice has been given and poison supplied to owners of private premises where the vermin existed.

### Salvage of Waste Materials.

The following amount of salvage was collected and disposed of during 1943 :—

Waste Paper .....	90 tons	Bones .....	5 tons
Metal .....	16 tons	Tins .....	30 tons
Rags .....	2 tons	String .....	22 cwts.
Rubber .....	2 tons		

### Sewage.

The whole of the district is drained by a system of sewers, the main outfall discharging into the Sewage Disposal Works at Whinfell,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles out of town. On entering the works the effluent passes through detritus tanks which are in duplicate and each 10 feet by 6 feet by 6 feet in depth, then through a dividing chamber into four settling tanks of the circular flat bottomed, brick lined type, of a total capacity of 208,000 gallons.

The effluent after treatment in the settling tanks is passed to four revolving distributors, by cast iron pipes, the distributors discharge over media of granite, each filter having a diameter of 80 feet and an average depth of 6 feet. After passing through the filtering media the effluent enters humus tanks constructed in duplicate ; these are rectangular sloping floor tanks with scum boards at each end. The resultant effluent then discharges direct into the River Eamont.

I am, Mrs. Johnson and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. W. BUTLER,

Surveyor, Sanitary Inspector  
and Water Engineer.



